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preferred methods for commanders to address homosexual conduct. Only a soldier's commander is authorized to initiate fact-finding inquiries into a soldier's alleged homosexual conduct, and then only when the commander has received credible information that there is a basis for that soldier's discharge. A commander may not begin an inquiry solely to find out about a soldier's sexual orientation.

Homosexual conduct is grounds for discharge from the Army.

One of the bedrock points of the standing Army command policy on homosexual conduct is that harassment, threats or violence against soldiers due to real or perceived sexual orientation are not acceptable.

It is Army policy that soldiers can report threats, harassment or violence to the commander, free of harm or reprisal. Commanders should take appropriate action to protect

the safety of soldiers who report threats or harassment.

Under Department of Defense and Army policy, the fact that a person reports being threatened or harassed because he or she is said or perceived to be a homosexual is not, by itself, credible information justifying the initiation of an investigation of the soldier.

The challenge to all soldiers is to comply with the law that prohibits homosexual conduct, while at the same time respecting the privacy and dignity of every soldier.

The Army already conducts widespread training about the policy on homosexual conduct and will be expanding the training in the near future. The lessons learned in training soldiers in other sensitive subjects involving human relations — such as consideration of others, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment prevention — offer valuable lessons that can be applied to training on the homosexual-conduct policy.

